American Free Press
Vol XIV No. 31 August 4, 2014 americanfreepress.net

Page 18, AMERICAN FREE PRESS * August 4, 2014 * Issue 31 *
AMERICANFREEPRESS.NET * COMMENTARY & OPINION

Books Explore Facts, Myths of Judaism

By Michael Collins Piper

For — Jews and Christians alike — the first, last and only word on the Middle East crisis is the Old Testament. For some daring folks, the legendary Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion are the standard, although many fail to understand the protocols present a plan for Jewish global hegemony well beyond the borders of the nation-state called Israel.

However, for those interested in delving more deeply into this murky realm, there are several interesting new works filled with valuable (often explosive) information helping one better understand the worldview of those who call themselves Jews and who occupy Palestine in the name of Judaism.

Issued by mainstream publishers and available in bookstores, most such volumes are generally reviewed only in papers and journals circulating largely in the Jewish community and, as such, purchased and read by a small number of people. But those are very influential people whose financial resources and organized group endeavors — not to mention their considerable media influence — make them unquestionably one of the predominant powers in America (and around the globe) today.

The authors of the books mentioned are devotees of Judaism, supporters of Israel, accredited scholars recognized in the arena of Jewish studies. None are "neo-Nazis" or "anti-Semites" or even "anti-Zionist Jews."

What follows should whet the appetites of those intrigued by serious research into controversial areas largely unexplored by most of today's Internet noise-makers touting themselves as "experts" on what has perennially been called — even by Jewish historians — "the Jewish question."

THE IMAGE OF THE NON-JEW IN JUDAISM

The Image of the Non-Jew in Judaism: The Idea of Noahide Law was written by David Novak, professor at the University of Toronto, and edited by Matthew LaGrone, a professor of Jewish studies at the University of Delaware. Those captivated by the stories of the Noahide laws floating about in the "patriot" media for years will be fascinated by this volume that demonstrates these laws do indeed exist in Jewish teaching and — though unknown to non-Jews — are deemed by Jews to govern not only themselves but also the "goyim," a term often used by Jews — even publicly — to refer to non-Jews. Roughly translated as four-legged beast (or cattle), the appellation suggests non- Jews are non-human.

The author analyzes Noahide and even makes the startling contention Noahide "might be an appropriate starting point for Jewish philosophy today." The editor points out: "How a minority religion uses its sacred literature and frames its moral and philosophical narratives to navigate and negotiate the often knotty relationships with other communities is perennially relevant, and all the more so in a globalized world."

HOLY WAR IN JUDAISM

Holy War in Judaism: The Fall and Rise of a Controversial Idea, by Reuven Firestone, professor at the Hebrew Union College Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, explores the Judaic concept of "holy war," which, variously interpreted by Jewish philosophers, not only includes violence (sanctioned by the Jewish god) to secure the safety of the Jewish people and their land, but which also endorses the conquest of other peoples and their lands — a point quite relevant in light of the Jewish dream of a "Greater Israel" that would envelop other nations: all of Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, substantial portions of Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, not to mention occupied Palestine. So this volume refutes the standard image of Jews and Israel as pacifistic folks simply seeking security.

THE PEACE & VIOLENCE OF JUDAISM

The Peace and Violence of Judaism: From the Bible to Modern Zionism, by Robert Eisen, professor of Judaic studies at George Washington University, is an open-minded journey through Jewish philosophy. It candidly points out that Jewish teachings have in some cases advocated violence toward non-Jews while others promoted peace, and that "both readings are valid and authentic interpretations of Judaism." The author notes, "While Jewish ethicists often use historical context to explain away unpleasant Jewish texts [often cited by critics of the Jews], they generally do not apply the same thinking to Jewish texts more to their liking."

Having non-Jewish friends, the author says he "cannot accept rabbinic sources that equate non- Jews with animals nor the Kabbalistic notion that non-Jews are inherently evil." He refers to the Kabbala, a mystical Jewish study that Christian advocates for Judaism and Israel prefer to ignore since its existence refutes the theory there is some kinship between Judaism and Christianity.

The author concludes, "Modern Zionism represents the active revival of the violent tendencies in Judaism which have emerged in the open once again because Jews have regained political and military power."

THE MASADA MYTH

The Masada Myth: Collective Memory and Mythmaking in Israel, by Machman Ben-Yehuda, a professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, dissects and lays to waste the much-touted claim by Israeli propagandists (hyped in the media) that, in ancient times, a group of Jewish warriors heroically fought to the death (committing mass suicide) under siege by Roman soldiers at a mountaintop fortress known as Masada. A foundation of modern-day Israel's public relations gimmickry, this legend has — as the book notes — become "an ideological symbol for the state of Israel, the dramatic subject of movies and miniseries, a shrine venerated by generations of Zionists and Israeli soldiers, and the most profitable tourist attraction in modern Israel."

But it's all a myth and — though the author doesn't say this — it reflects the perpetual lies put forth daily to the non-Jewish world by the Jewish-controlled media about the nation of Israel and Jewish affairs.

ANTI-JUDAISM

Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition, by David Nirenberg, professor at the University of Chicago, is a thought-provoking work contending that, as one reviewer remarked, "hostility to Judaism is not the product of occasional historical conjunctures, economic crises or far right political victories. Rather, it is a constituent element of [Western] culture . . . ." In short, anyone accused of anti-Semitism is no far-out "extremist," but someone who reflects Western tradition.

These are well-documented works, panoramic, historically sweeping and keyed directly to current events — must reading for serious students of modern reality and world affairs.

Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The New Babylon***, ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem: Zionist Power in America*** , ***The Judas Goats: The Enemy Within***, ***Dirty Secrets: Crime, Conspiracy & Cover-Up in the 20th Century***, ***The GOLEM: Israel's Hell Bomb***, and ***Target: Traficant.*** These works can be found at America First Books and First Amendment Books: 1-888-699-NEWS. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

(Issue Number 31; August 4, 2014, AMERICAN FREE PRESS)